

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I WVL BUCHAREST 2853

GENEVA FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, MTN, RO
SUBJ: ROMANIAN RECIPROCITY IN MTN
REF: STATE 102880

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR AND COMMERCIAL ATTACHE DISCUSSED
QUESTION OF NEED FOR GOR ASSURANCES AND ACTION ON
RECIPROCITY IN MTN IN GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF U.S.-
ROMANIAN RELATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
RENEWAL OF U.S.-ROMANIAN TRADE AGREEMENT. DISCUSSIONS
WERE HELD ON APRIL 26 WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE
OFFICIALS, NICOLAE DUMITRESCU (DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
INCLUDING MTN) AND WITH AMERICAN DESK OFFICERS
ARDELEANU AND IONESCU. AT THIS WORKING LEVEL, WE
RECEIVED NO DIRECT RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR CON-
FIRMATION OF OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOR AGREES IN
PRINCIPLE TO RECIPROCATATE U.S. CONCESSIONS IN MTN. WE
EXPLAINED NEED FOR SUCH ASSURANCES IN CONNECTION WITH
PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION REQUIRED BY TRADE ACT OF
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1974 AND NEED TO HAVE SUCH ASSURANCES WITHIN SHORT
TIME IN VIEW OF PROPOSED TIMING OF CONGRESSIONAL
HEARINGS. THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION
WILL BE PUBLIC CREATED SOME CONCERN. DUMITRESCU'S
CONCERN IN BRIEF IS THAT GOR AGREEMENT TO PROVIDING
ASSURANCES, EVEN IN PRINCIPLE, OF RECIPROCITY IN
ADVANCE OF KNOWLEDGE OF CONCESSIONS WHICH WILL BE AGREED

TO IN FRAMEWORK OF MTN IS RATHER RISKY BUSINESS FOR A SMALL, DEVELOPING, SOCIALIST COUNTRY. GRANTING SUCH ASSURANCES PROBABLY, FURTHERMORE, TIPS THE GOR'S HAND IN ITS TRADING NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THE NEED FOR RESPONSE TO U.S. NTM REQUEST. DUMITRESCU'S RESPONSE WAS NOT ENCOURAGING. DUMITRESCU'S ATTITUDE APPEARS TO BE THAT GOR RESPONSE, IN ADVANCE OF CLARIFICATION OF CONCRETE CONCESSIONS THAT ARE TO BE MADE BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, WOULD PUT GOR AT DISADVANTAGE. WE POINTED OUT THAT NUMBER OF REQUESTS, AS WE UNDERSTAND THEM (SEE GENEVA 05929), WOULD BE RELATIVELY SIMPLE MATTER FOR GOR RESPONSE. FOR INSTANCE, GOR HAD IN 1977 PUBLISHED DIRECTORY OF INDUSTRIAL CENTRALS WITH ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, GOR RECORD OF IMPORTS FROM GATT MEMBER COUNTRIES INDICATED CONTINUING EFFORTS TO INCREASE IMPORTS.

3. SINCE DUMITRESCU'S RESPONSE TO OUR QUERIES INVARIABLY VEERED TOWARD WODER SUBJECT OF STATUS OF MTN NEGOTIATIONS IN GENERAL, WE REITERATED FACT THAT OUR INTEREST AT THIS POINT IS IN OBTAINING INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDINGS WHICH WOULD CLEAR THE WAY FOR RENEWAL OF THE BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROMANIA AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS REFOCUSING OF CONVERSATION
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SEEMED TO STICK IN HIS MIND. WE WERE PROMISED THAT OUR POINTS WOULD BE TAKEN UP AT HIGHER LEVEL.

4. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO SEE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE CORNEL BURTICA IN NEAR FUTURE AND WILL BE RAISING THESE ISSUES. WE HOPE THAT REPRESENTATIONS UNDERTAKEN ON APRIL 26 AT WORKING LEVEL WILL HAVE HAD A SALUTARY EFFORT.

5. CLEARLY, ONE OF CHIEF PROBLEMS IN SECURING GOR RESPONSE IS THAT MILTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES ARE SEPARATED OUT AND CONSIDERED ON THEIR MERITS ONLY WITH GREATEST OF DIFFICULTY. SINCE DUMITRESCU BELIEVES THAT MTN WILL NOT BE COMPLETED IN JULY AND PROBABLY NOT CONCLUDED UNTIL DECEMBER, GOR'S TIMETABLE FOR RESPONDING TO ANNOUNCED CONCESSIONS AND REQUESTS HAS BEEN AFFECTED. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, IT IS IMPORTANT TO INSIST ON POINT OF USG'S TIMETABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT RENEWAL.
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